

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

US Appln. Serial No.: 10/816,094 Confirmation No.: 9485  
Applicant(s): Daniel James Branagan  
Filing Date: April 1, 2004  
For: Controlled Thermal Expansion of Welds to Enhance Toughness  
TC/AU.: 1725 Customer No.: 32047  
Examiner: Lynne Renee Docket No.: Nano003U  
Edmondson

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Amendment A**

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 27, 2006. This amendment is being filed within the three month shortened statutory period. Accordingly, Applicant does not believe an extension of time is necessary, however Applicant conditionally petitions for an extension of time to provide for the possibility that the need for an extension has inadvertently been overlooked. Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2121 for any necessary additional extension fees.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.